

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 2 and 3. The sheet, which includes Figures 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figures 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement sheet.

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings in that they should be designated as prior art. Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet where Figures 2 and 3 are identified as prior art.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 7. The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 5 and the noted typographical error has been corrected.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to address the ambiguities noted by the Examiner. These claims were indicated as otherwise allowable by the Examiner and now should be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 to 6, 8, 10 to 12, 14 to 17 and 20 based on the prior art. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 7, 9, 13 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 20 with the subject matter of claims 2, 7, 9, 13 and 21. Some modifications were made for accuracy and clarity. It is believed that claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 20 are now in condition for allowance. Rejected independent claim 16 and dependent claim 17 have been cancelled.


Applicants have also added new claims 22 and 23. Support for these claims can be found in the specification beginning at page 10 line 28. Claims 22 and 23 address a similar issue as claims 18 and 19 (characterizing incompleteness of the anneal process) but specify a "delay factor" recited on page 11, line 13. It is believed that claims 22 and 23 define patentable subject matter as well.

In view of the above, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and early action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
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